

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for issuing a purchase card comprising:
 - presenting a purchaser with the opportunity to buy the purchase card;
 - determining whether the purchaser has sufficient funds to pay for the purchase card;
 - creating a purchase card account for a recipient designated by the purchaser; and
 - issuing the purchase card.
2. The method according to claim 1, where the recipient activates the purchase card.
3. The method according to claim 1, where the purchase card account contains a monetary amount determined by the purchaser.
4. The method according to claim 1, where money can be added to an issued purchase card account.
5. The method according to claim 2, where activating the purchase card comprises notifying the issuer of the purchase card that the recipient has received the purchase card.
6. The method according to claim 2, where activating the purchase card comprises the issuer of the purchase card notifying the purchaser that the purchase card has been received by the recipient.
7. The method according to claim 1, where the purchaser may designate merchants where the purchase card may be used.

8. The method according to claim 2, where the purchase card is active for a predetermined period of time.
9. A method for issuing a purchase card as a rebate award comprising:
 - issuing a credit card to a cardholder, said credit card being associated with a sponsor;
 - calculating a rebate amount based upon cardholder purchases made with said credit card;
 - creating a purchase card account for a recipient designated by the cardholder, the purchase card having a purchase value determined by said rebate amount; and
 - issuing the purchase card.
10. The method according to claim 9, where the recipient activates the purchase card.
11. The method according to claim 10, where the activation of the purchase card comprises notifying the issuer of the purchase card that the recipient has received the purchase card.
12. The method according to claim 9, where activation of the purchase card comprises activating the purchase card for a predetermined period of time.
13. The method according to claim 9, where the rebate is calculated based on all purchases made with the credit card.
14. The method according to claim 9, where the rebate is calculated based on purchases made with the credit card from the sponsor.

15. The method according to claim 9, where the rebate is calculated based on the monetary amount of the purchases.
16. The method according to claim 9, where the sponsor notifies the issuer of the amount of said rebate, and said issuer creates said purchase card.
17. A method of issuing a credit card comprising:
 - creating a purchase card account for a recipient designated by a purchaser;
 - issuing the purchase card;
 - receiving a request from the recipient to convert the purchase card into a credit card;
 - determining whether the recipient meets predetermined credit criteria to convert the purchase card into a credit card;
 - creating a credit card account; and
 - converting the purchase card into a credit card.
18. The method according to claim 17, where the balance of the purchase card account is transferred to the credit card account.
19. The method according to claim 17, where converting the purchase card to a credit card immediately activates the credit card.